

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02917 031432Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8108
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2917

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EC
SUBJECT: MAY DAY LABOR PARADE IS MARXIST LOVE FEAST

REF: QUITO 2762

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MAY DAY PARADES IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL WERE DOMINATED BY EXTREME LEFTIST POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN BY THE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS THAT WERE THE OSTENSIBLE ORGANIZERS. PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MPD, CHINA-LINE COMMUNIST) AND THE BROAD LEFTIST FRONT (FADI, SOVIET-LINE COMMUNIST) MARCHED IN BOTH PARADES. THE PARTICIPATION OF ORIT/AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE MASSIVE AND WELL-FINANCED EFFORTS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE IMPRESSION LEFT WITH BYSTANDERS WAS THAT BOTH EFFORTS WERE IN ESSENCE EXTREME LEFTIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO FURTHER THE ELECTORAL HOPES OF THE MPD AND FADI CANDIDATES AND ATTACK THE GOE AND THE "OLIGARCHY." END SUMMARY.

2. THE TRADITIONAL MAY DAY LABOR PARADES WERE HELD IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL MAY 1 BUT THE LITTLE INPUT BY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WAS OVERWHELMED BY LARGE TURNOUTS OF FORCES PROCLAIMING LOYALTY TO THE FADI AND MPD POLITICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 02917 031432Z

ORGANIZATIONS. IN QUITO, THE PARADE WAS LED BY THE ORIT-AFFILIATED CEOSL (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) CONTINGENT THAT TOOK ABOUT SIX MINUTES OF THE ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR PARADE. FOLLOWING THE CEOSL GROUP WERE THE COMMUNIST STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, FESE AND FEUE, THE PSRE (CUBA-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY), THE SOVIET-LINE COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE, THE SOVIET-LINE COMMUNIST

PARTY, AND THE CTE (COMMUNIST) AND CEDOC (MARXIST) LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH THE CEDOC AND CTE ARE CONTROLLED AND FINANCED BY THE SOVIET-LINE COMMUNISTS WHO APPARENTLY CHOSE TO DEVOTE THE GREATER PROPORTION OF THEIR AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO THEIR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION RATHER THAN TO THE LABOR CONFEDERATION.

3. THE FADI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, CENTRAL UNIVERSITY'S RECTOR CAMILO MENA, WAS PRESENT IN THE QUITO PARADE, AS WAS THE MPD VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. THE MPD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MARCHED IN GUAYAQUIL. ALSO PRESENT IN THE PARADES WERE FADI AND MPD CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OFFICES.

4. MARCHERS GENERALLY CHANTED POLITICAL RATHER THAN TRADE UNION SLOGANS. THE MOST POPULAR IN QUITO, CHANGED IN FRONT OF THE FNC CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS, ACCUSED FNC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SIXTO DURAN-BALLEN AND CANDIDATES BORJA, ROLDOS AND HUERTA OF BEING CIA AGENTS.

5. BOTH PARADES WERE GENERALLY PEACEFUL, EXCEPT THERE WERE A FEW SCUFFLES IN QUITO WHEN THE POLICE INTERRUPTED THE PARADE'S PROGRESS AND REFUSED TO ALLOW MARCHERS TO GO TO SAN FRANCISCO PLAZA WHERE SPEECHES WERE PROGRAMMED. LEFTIST LEADERS GAVE AD HOC SPEECHES WHERE THE PARADE WAS STOPPED AND CEOSL LEADERS GAVE UP THEIR EFFORTS TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 02917 031432Z

ADDRESS THE MARCHERS.

6. IN QUITO THE CEDOC GROUP LED BY GERMAN BARRAGAN (CLAT-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT) HAD A RESPECTABLE SHOWING IN A SEPARATE PARADE AS DID CEOSL SPLINTER GROUP LEADER, LUIS VILLACRES, IN GUAYAQUIL.

7. FROM GUAYAQUIL, AIFLD'S COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE GUAYAQUIL AFFILIATES OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS MARCHED JOINTLY AT THE HEAD OF THE PARADE, GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF UNITY OF THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS. CEOSL PRESIDENT JOSE CHAVEZ MARCHED FURTHER BACK IN THE PARADE WITH THE LOCAL CEOSL CONTINGENT. CEOSL'S GUAYAQUIL REPRESENTATIVE JULIO CHANG TOLD POL/LABOFF APRIL 27 THAT THERE WOULD BE NO JOINT DELEGATION AT THE HEAD OF THE PARADE AND FURTHER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO STUDENT OR POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

8. THE EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION THAT THE PARADES WERE OVERWHELMINGLY POLITICAL WAS SHARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS. AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, IN AN ARTICLE DATED MAY 1 AND TITLED "LABOR DAY PARADE EVINCES SUPPORT

OF LEFTIST CANDIDATES," STATED, "THE LARGE WORKERS' PARADE ON MAY 1 TURNED OUT TO BE A DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE LEFTIST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WITHIN THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIC RECOVERY UNDERWAY IN ECUADOR."

9. COMMENT: THE MAY DAY PARADES IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL REINFORCE THE CONCERN REPORTED REFTEL. CEOSL REPRESENTATIVES REPEATEDLY ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT PARADES WOULD BE DEVOTED TO TRADE UNION QUESTIONS AND THAT STUDENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WOULD BE AVOIDED. CEOSL PRESIDENT JOSE CHAVEZ HAD ASSURED EMBASSY THAT HE INTENDED TO CORRECT EXISTING PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT CEOSL IS CONNECTED TO FADI, AND THAT HE WOULD PUBLICLY AND STRONGLY REAFFIRM CEOSL'S DEMOCRATIC, NON-MARXIST NATURE. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 QUITO 02917 031432Z

ON APRIL 30 A MILD DECLARATION WAS MADE IN PASSING THAT CEOSL NEITHER SUPPORTED FADI NOR THE FNC'S DURAN-BALLEN. FURTHER, THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM A CEOSL SOURCE THAT CHANG WAS INSTRUCTED BY CHAVEZ TO JOIN HIS CTE AND CEDOC COUNTERPARTS AT THE HEAD OF THE GUAYAQUIL PARADE, CONTRARY TO STATEMENTS MADE EARLIER BY BOTH CHANG AND CAHVEZ. UNFORTUNATELY, THE IMPRESSION RECEIVED BY THE NON-INITIATED OBSERVER AT THE MAY DAY PARADES WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CEOSL WAS PART AND PARCEL OF THE COMMUNIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY THAT FOLLOWED.

10. FINALLY, CEOSL'S PATHETIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE RATHER IMPRESSIVE EFFORT, CONTRASTED ITS RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES AS COMPARED TO ITS COMMUNIST COMPETITION. IT MAY ALSO HAVE REFLECTED A LACK OF INTEREST OF THE CEOSL RANK AND FILE IN PARTICIPATING IN YET ANOTHER MAY DAY PARADE DOMINATED BY THE COMMUNISTS. CORR

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